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## WEBSTER AND THE CONSTITUTION.

Mr. Webster entered upon the great task before him—the constitutional argument. He undertook to demolish the structure so elaborately reared by the Senator from South Carolina, and so powerfully supported by the class of gentlemen who followed Mr. Calhoun as a political leader. He undertook to show that our political system was a government established by the people of the United States, and not a mere compact between the States. He aimed to exhibit the Constitution, which defined the powers of the government, and to annihilate the theory that one State or any number of States could, by a right reserved when our political system was organized, arrest the course of the government or overturn it. He at the same time admitted the right of revolution on the part of the people—a right higher than the Constitution and supreme over all governments. Never at any period of the world's history had a statesman undertaken to perform a greater task. It is not too much to say that upon that debate depended the stability of the government, the destiny of the republic.

Mr. Webster was profoundly conscious of the importance of the occasion. He rose to the full height of its grandeur; he advanced in his great argument with a bearing nothing less than majestic. His eye swept the whole field of controversy. He disdained all the little arts of debate; he stated the propositions of his adversary, which he meant to combat, with the most perfect fairness; and he struck the shield of the formidable champion of the opposing party as it hung in front of his tent with the point of his lance. The tournament, upon which the eyes of the vast assemblage representing the whole country were fixed, was to him not a field for display, but a real field of battle. Not only did he hold in hand the lance with which to unhorse the powerful man who opposed him in the lists, but the battle-axe which none but his great arm could wield was within his reach, with which he would crush all comers, until the field was yielded to him.

It is impossible to overestimate the service rendered by Mr. Webster to the Constitution and to the country. The influence of his great argument in behalf of the supremacy of the Constitution, and of the laws of Congress passed in pursuance of its authority, is immeasurable. Not only did it settle the opinions of men at that time, but it has ever since given to the national government a moral power which makes it at once irresistible and indestructible. The American flag was flying over the Senate-chamber when he delivered his immortal speech, and through the glass dome its folds might be seen floating in the breeze. While the effect upon the audience which thronged every spot within the reach of his voice was overwhelming, the words still ring in our ears, and will be heard by every succeeding generation. History and painting will preserve the scene as one of the most memorable and impressive which has occurred in the fortunes of the republic. Some appropriate spot in the Capitol of the United States should be chosen, where a monument may be reared to the honor of the great Senator who saved the Constitution. He was a man

"Not for an age,  
But for all time."

—Hon. Henry W. Hilliard, in Harper's Magazine for March.

WHAT MARSHALL JEWELL DISCOVERED IN RUSSIA.—Marshall Jewell is a typical Yankee, "smart as chain lightning," and cute as they make 'em, even in Connecticut. Gov. Jewell, according to report, came to the Russians while minister to that country. It is said as a matter of fact that Gov. Jewell, while minister in Russia, found out the secret of the famous Russia leather. The secret is the result of the use of birch bark tar, with which the skins are dressed in place of tallow and grease, the latter substances being so largely used as food among the lower classes. This tar, which is carefully saved as it exudes from the wood when burned, was first used as a substitute for wheel grease in Russia, as it is to this day, and then for the filling and dressing of skins. By a system of careful inquiry, and literally following his nose during his visits to some of the great Russian tanneries and curriers' shops, Mr. Jewell found this compound in a great kettle ready for use, and thus the mystery was solved. It is not expensive, costing about \$10 a barrel, and he immediately ordered ten barrels and sent them to various leading leather manufacturers in this country with instructions; and the result is that genuine Russia leather goods are now made in America, and doubtless will soon be sold at nearly 50 per cent below former prices.—Paterson (N. J.) Press.

A notable centenarian death is that of Mrs. Nancy G. Van Rensselaer, widow of Gen. H. K. Van Rensselaer of Albany, at Randolph, N. Y., aged 102. The old general equipped and commanded a regiment raised from the Van Rensselaer manor, and was wounded in the battle with Burgoyne's army at Fort Ann, N. Y. Since the death of her husband, in 1816, Mrs. Van Rensselaer has lived with her son and has led an active, cheerful life, the immediate cause of her death being an attack of dropsy.

## FREDERICK THE GREAT.

Frederick the Great was not an admirer of the American political system, yet he was always friendly to the American patriots, and did not like the spirit manifested by England. When he discovered that England had hired Hessian soldiers to be sent over to fight against her American colonies, he manifested his dislike of the work by levying the same toll per head on all those recruits passing through his dominions that was levied upon bought and sold cattle. General Washington he admired exceedingly, and to him the king sent a sword of honor from Potsdam, with the inscription: "From the oldest general in the world to the greatest." But he was "every inch a king." He believed in the "divine right" most emphatically.

In an old magazine, published in Philadelphia in 1788, to which Franklin was a regular contributor while he lived, I find an account of an interview of our philosopher with Frederick while negotiating a treaty with Prussia and the United States. "Pray, doctor," said Frederick, "what is the object you hope to obtain in your form of government?"

"Liberty, sir," replied the philosopher, promptly; "that liberty, that freedom, which is the birthright of man."

After a little reflection the king answered:

"I was born a prince, I am become a king and I will not use the power I possess to the ruin of my own trade. I was born to command, the people were born to obey."

Yet the treaty which he freely signed with Franklin embodied the most elevated principles of international rights.

## RUTHERFORD B. HAYES.

We believe nobody has charged Governor Hayes with buying his nomination. We believe nobody has charged him with using a "barrel of money" to secure his election.

We believe no Democratic elector has ever charged him with an attempt to purchase an elector's vote for \$100,000, or for any sum.

We believe no telegraph office has yielded up any cipher dispatches, couched in thieves' jargon, which were addressed to him.

All through the campaign, Governor Hayes has lived as in the midst of "the fierce white light that beats upon a throne and no man seeing him has doubted his absolute integrity, or his freedom from anything that savored of dishonesty or unfairness. And, in these bitter days, when the secrets of the great campaign are being relentlessly and freely exposed, when every telegraph office in the land has been raked and scraped for compromising dispatches, when the most intimate friends and advisers of the candidates have been put on the rack of cross-examination, absolutely not a single fact, not one has been brought to light that could by the most bigoted partisan, be wrangled or tortured into the appearance of a reflection against the man whom we believe to be President elect. If the attitude of Governor Hayes, during the campaign and since, does not bring him the admiration of the people, without distinction of party, for his cleanliness of hand and the whiteness of his life, integrity has ceased to be esteemed and honor and honesty respected.—Cincinnati Times.

Extract from a moody sermon: "Suppose it was known that Charlie Ross was hid somewhere in Boston, how many in this audience would volunteer to go out and ransom this whole city to find that child? How this whole nation has been roused over the loss of that little boy! But, my friends, only think of the lost souls that are walking up and down the streets of Boston; think of them in these billiard halls and drinking saloons—young men that are noble, that will make jewels in the Saviour's crown that shall sparkle through eternity, and they are perishing for the want of Christ; they are blindfolded; Satan is dragging them down to hell and death. One of them came into the meeting last night half drunk, and thought I was mad because I talked about his being lost, and began to pray for me. Poor, blindfolded man. "No drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of God." Is God true? Let us make God true and every man a liar. If a man stands up and tells us that all these drunkards are going to reel into heaven, you may know he is the agent of the devil, and doing the devil's work. Oh! may God wake us up and let us know what the loss of a soul is! The loss or friends is sad, but that is nothing in comparison with the loss of a soul. It seems to me that I would rather have all my friends snatched away from me to-night and know that they were gone to be with Christ, than to have them live for years with me and then die without God and without hope.

## AN INJUNCTION AGAINST BANKRUPTCY.

PROVIDENCE, Feb. 15.—Non payment of interest on A. and W. Sprague's notes and other shrinkage of values constrained the trustee to ask a temporary injunction restraining the withdrawal of deposits until the accruing interest shall make up the present deficiency now estimated at not more than seven or eight per cent.

## GAMES OF CHANCE.

FORTUNES AND MISFORTUNES OF NEW YORK GAMBLERS.

Chamberlain, the great gambler, has failed, and failed badly. His debts are astounding—\$10,000 for meat, \$10,000 for liquors, \$6,000 for clothes. The fact is Chamberlain's business, as the colored people sing, is "sometimes up and sometimes down." One night his bank is loaded down with gold; the next night he could not buy a box of cigars. Yet the glitter, glare and glow of the institution, the fine furniture, the clink of the gold, and the sumptuous tables free as a hydra—do their work on the unwary as readily as it gambling was a paying business. There are men in New York, however, who follow gambling as a trade—have done so for years, and have made money by it. Not one in 10,000 could imitate them. These men live in fine style in fashionable New York. Their houses are elegantly furnished and their tables sumptuously supplied. Their business is unknown, and they pass as brokers. Their families move in good society, and occupy a high-priced pew in a fashionable church. These men act on a rule, from which they never depart. They do not drink, they smoke sparingly, keep their heads clear, and have command over their nerves. They play every night. They play while they win, it is until daylight. They limit their losses. They can lose \$50, \$100, \$300 and not feel it. Blow high or blow low, they never go beyond this. They believe in luck, and when the luck is against them they retire. Out of the thousands of gamblers, not ten have made money over the "green cloth." —From Burleigh's New York Letter.

## THE EUROPEAN ARMY SYSTEM IN AMERICA.

The army commission sent to Europe, consisting of Gen. Upton, Forsyth, and Maj. Sanger, have come home, as might be expected, with their heads full of the prevailing military craze of the old world. We do not say it as a matter of reproach but the fact is, that the commission, as the Army and Navy Journal says, have been diligent pupils at the Moltke school. Gen. Upton in a letter to Gen. Sherman discloses the tenor of their recommendations. He proposes to establish three corps d'armee and a cavalry corps amounting in all to 150,150 men; he proposes this apparently as our systematized "fighting belt," and to actually furnish and support the 5531 field officers required to manage such an army, whenever it should be called "to the flag," as the Germans say. He would make the present army of 25,000 men the nucleus of this larger force by districting the country into permanent recruiting districts and stations, in each of which certain regiments of the state militia may be designated as "U. S. reserves." He also proposes that the graduates of colleges where military instruction is given be all enrolled as 2d lieutenants of reserves, and placed in the line of promotion. He lays great stress on the failure in the late war to officer the volunteers at once with those who held commissions in the regular army—a mistake for which he places the blame on "the commander-in-chief and the adjutant-general." Gen. Upton provides for the shifting back and forth of line and staff officers, and makes many other apparently good suggestions. On the supposition that we needed an army proportionate in any degree to our strength, we should say his plans were first-rate. But we really don't take any great stock in that need.

The six-worded inaugural address of Gov. Newbold of Iowa, which was chronicled a few days ago, meets with general approval. The universal sentiment seems to be that there is a useless expenditure of words in inaugural addresses and annual messages. The Richmond Enquirer, after referring to this growing evil, says: "We think simplicity and brevity are republican. They are, we confess, the characteristics of arbitrary missives; but that does not make them less appropriate for the expressions of integrity and candor. In these days the people are dreadfully bamboozled by wrangling. Could we have less talk and more of the 'doing of the best' it would be a providential blessing." If Gov. Newbold has set the fashion for a new order of things, he will deserve the profound thanks of the press.

Speaker Randall's ruling in opposition to Proctor Knott's impertinent proposition to refer the Florida decision back to the Electoral Commission has been commented on in a hysterical style of commendation that is justified by the circumstances. The ruling was fair, and no other ruling could be made unless the person making it was willing to illuminate himself as the standard of Democratic rascality. The proposition of Knott was so palpably wrong that no man, however partisan, could afford to risk his reputation by approving it. Knott has nothing to lose when it comes to stupid and unfair propositions in Congress—Ohio State Journal.

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